Hope for a truce in Gaza

Israel and Hamas moved closer to a ceasefire as the death toll continues to rise on both sides PAGE 6

GIDDY UP! FOR THE GREY CUP

OBBY KHAN REPS FOR THE WEST AS THE STAMPS TOUCH DOWN IN T.O. PAGE 19

SASKATOON metro®

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

News worth sharing.

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Province offers new liquor rules for strip clubs, theatres

But baring all remains off-bounds. Bring-your-own-wine will also be allowed in restaurants under changes

Saskatchewan is offering new liquor laws that peel back a long-held prohibition against bars serving booze at strip-teases, but stop short of the full monty.

The province announced more than 70 new liquor regulations Tuesday, including the move to allow alcohol to be served at striptease performances and wet-clothing contests. But it won't allow full frontal nudity and the sale of liquor to be mixed.

"Prohibition against full nudity is still going to be enforced in Saskatchewan, but we will allow some stripping, exotic-dancing-type without full nudity in the province," said Donna Harpauer, the minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

Saskatchewan is the only province that doesn't allow stripping in places where alcohol is served.

Harpauer said the new rule brings Saskatchewan in line with New Brunswick, where genitals must be covered for men and women and women must have some coverage of their breasts. Decorative nipple coverings, commonly known as pasties, are allowed under Saskatchewan's new rules.

The minister said she doesn't think the change will lead to a boom in Saskatchewan's stripping industry. She said the industry is more interested in being able to have full rather than just partial nudity.

The new rules also allow movie theatres to serve alcohol in age-restricted areas.

Other changes will allow restaurant patrons to bring their own wine to meals. Spas will be able to sell alcohol to clients getting a treatment such as a manicure. Concert halls will be able to sell alcohol for televised or pre-recorded events instead of just live performances.

Golf courses will be allowed to have more alcohol kiosks or carts on the course, instead of the current one cart or kiosk per nine holes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

We asked you what you thought of the new liquor laws, page 4.

A divisive issue

Some people think the change is uncalled for and some don't think it goes far enough, Harpauer said.

- "We're a pretty conservative province ... in a lot of areas, and so I just don't think there was a huge appetite to go down the road of full strip joints, obviously, in Saskatchewan. And, as I said, the feedback that the office got was very mixed."

Minister, Opposition NDP weigh in

Time for change

Donna Harpauer, minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, said the rules needed updating.

"The number of liquor carts you can have on a golf course, really, that's just goofy, so it's taking out the goofy in our existing regulations. There is some modernization.... Spas and theatres are good examples of that."

The Opposition NDP said the changes seem largely positive.

"We want to see how they play out on the ground. We want to see how they wind up getting enforced out there in day-to-day Saskatchewan," said New Democrat Warren McCall.

"But as positive as we think some of the changes are, or could be, we think this is a half measure."

McCall said some of the changes modernize liquor laws, but they also loosen the rules to get access to booze. He said the government should make sure that there are more measures for alcohol education or treatment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saskatchewan is currently the only province that does not allow alcohol and strip-teasing to mix, but that could all be about to change. Burlesque clubs will be among the establishments impacted by proposed changes in the regulations.

GAYE GERARD/GETTY IMAGES

Taking a hike

The barely clad 'Gitchhiker' hits Saskatchewan as he travels cross-country to raise cancer awareness PAGE 4

Sex, lies & Sesame Street

The man behind Elmo resigns as the scandal broadens PAGE 7

Ri-Ri relief

After 'seven crazy days,' Rihanna's 777 tour couldn't end soon enough for weary fans and journos PAGE 14

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Economy

Budget still on track: Provincial finance minister

Saskatchewan Finance Minister Ken Krawetz says the province faces some challenges because of a drop in non-renewable resource revenue.

But Krawetz says it's not the doom and gloom scenario painted by the Opposition NDP.

Krawetz says the mid-year budget update coming next week will show the decline in non-renewable resource money is being offset by other revenue, like taxes.

He says the update will also show that the budget is still balanced and has a surplus.

The government said in its first-quarter financial report in August that finances took a hit from a drop in oil revenue and Crown land sales, and that it was looking to reduce spending by about $55 million.

Krawetz says that's been done by ministries looking for savings, but no programs have been cut. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alleged incident

Band member facing assault charge

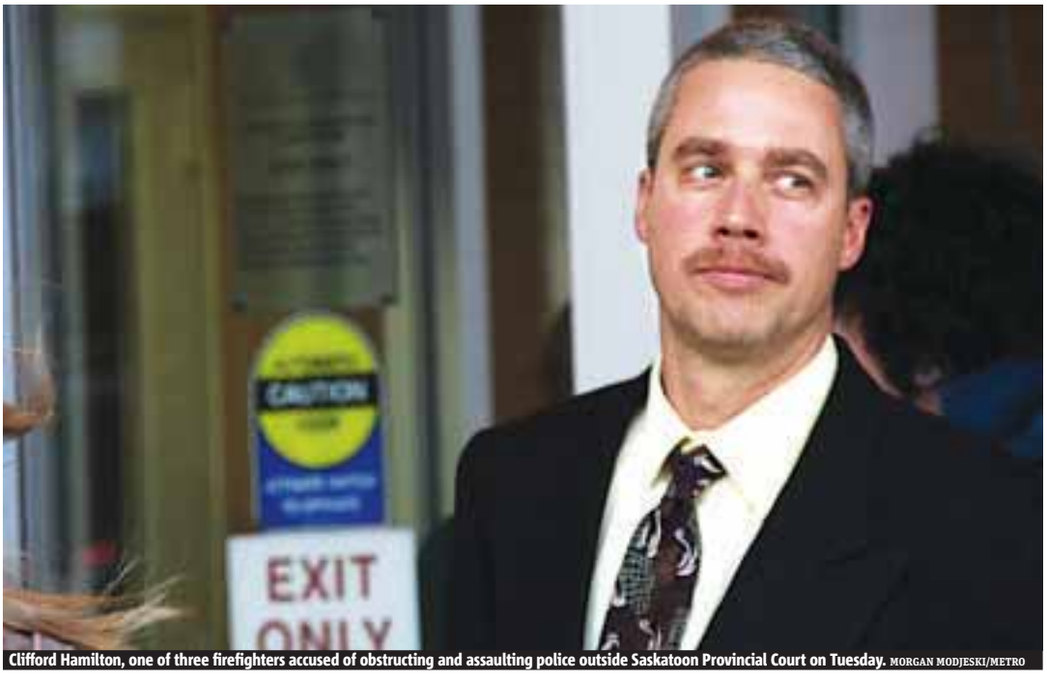
A high-ranking member of a Saskatchewan First Nation is facing a charge of assault.

Band councillor Darwin Morin was charged following an alleged incident last month at a casino near Edmonton.

In addition to the assault charge, Morin is also facing three counts of breach of undertaking.

He is due in a Stony Plain, Alta., courtroom Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CKBI



Clifford Hamilton, one of three firefighters accused of obstructing and assaulting police outside Saskatoon Provincial Court on Tuesday. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Local firefighters still facing trial

Fighting. Incident involving firefighters rooted in concern for friend, says witness

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

An incident where three Saskatoon firefighters were charged with assaulting and obstructing police may be rooted in concern for a friend says a witness.

Tuesday marked the second day of trial for Clifford Hamilton, Jeffrey Tysdal and Keith Walliser, who were charged after police saw two of the men fighting on the Broadway Bridge. When police tried to intervene in what the accused say was a friendly tussle between Walliser and Hamilton, Tysdal got involved.

Defense witness David Nickel, a firefighter who works at the same station and the same shift as the three accused, said the two men were wrestling in a fun manner when they fell to the ground. He said shortly afterwards, police arrived on the scene and tried to detain Hamilton, with an officer allegedly putting his knee on Hamilton's head.

Nickel said he told arriving officers, "We're all friends, they're just play fighting," and Hamilton eventually was able to push himself up.

Nickel says Hamilton and police officer Dylan Lisson, who testified on the first day of trial, started to grapple, but said Hamilton was eventually overtaken.

Nickel said he and Tysdal were yelling, "Stop, stop, he hasn't done anything," and said Tysdal was, "very concerned."

"Jeff was worried about Cliff," he said, noting that's when Tysdal grabbed Lisson from behind. He then says a second officer came to help Lisson, pepper spaying Tysdal in the face with some excess spray hitting Nickel.

Crown prosecutor Tom Mcnab questioned Nickel's statement, pointing to inconsistencies between his statement in court and a statement he gave at the scene. He pointed specifically to the fact Nickel left names out of his original statement given to police, implying the bond between firefighters could result in Nickel not wanting to, "implicate a buddy."

All three are expected back in court Wednesday.

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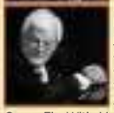

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(Edmonton)

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Friday, Nov 23 @ 9 pm STRAIGHT FROM THE FRIDGE *with* ELLEN KOLENICK
Thursday, Nov 29 @ 8 pm Roots Series: MEAGHAN SMITH CHRISTMAS SHOW (Halifax)

Alcohol and strip-teases: Yay or nay?

The Saskatchewan government announced more than 70 proposed changes to liquor laws yesterday. One change causing a stir allows adult-only establishments to serve alcohol during strip-tease performances — full-frontal nudity is still prohibited. Metro took to the streets to get your thoughts on the issue.

JANE CAULFIELD AND JEFF MACKEY
saskatoon@metronews.ca

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

Kelly Littlechild, 34: Call centre supervisor, Saskatoon

"I would have to say no, I guess for the safety of the employees. Some people could overdo it."

Sonya Winbigo, 19: Student, Regina

"Change (the regulations); other provinces can have strip clubs and drinking and I think that makes sense. People want to have a good time."

JEFF MACKEY/METRO

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

Tyler Weiland, 28: Various labour, Saskatoon

"I think that it's about time that they did that and I think it's ridiculous that they haven't done it sooner."

Dmytro Rukas, 23: Customer service rep., Regina

"I don't know how people behave at these places, but I can't help but think of the security of the boys and girls who are working there. If people aren't drinking it is less likely they will get drunk and aggressive, and that is a good thing."

JEFF MACKEY/METRO

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO

Melody Faith, 23: Customer service, Saskatoon

"I think it could be fine as long as they regulate it the same ways that bars are — they cut people off when they're getting out of hand."

Janielle Ogilvie, 18: Student, Regina

"I am not completely opposed to it, but I don't really think it is a good idea. I wouldn't want people to abuse the workers, you know, assault them if they got drunk enough."

JEFF MACKEY/METRO

'Gitchhiker' makes his way through Saskatchewan

Braving the cold. Mark McIntyre, a.k.a. the Gitchhiker, is raising cancer awareness one ride at a time

JEFF MACKEY
Metro in Regina

Anyone who has ever hitchhiked in Canada knows you sometimes have to fly by the seat of your pants — but what if you didn't even have pants?

The Gitchhiker, 43-year-old Mark McIntyre, is a Toronto-based comedian and actor who is hitchhiking from Vancouver to Truro, Nova Scotia with nothing but his Stanfield's underwear to keep him warm.

"I am an amateur hitchhiker, so this is all kind of new," said McIntyre. "I am learning, though. When it is minus 15, you learn pretty quick how to get a ride."

But don't worry about the icy temperatures — the Gitchhiker is always prepared.

"If weather conditions are brutal, I will switch into long johns or something," said McIntyre.

The Gitchhiker's bold endeavour has been garnering him a lot of attention on social media.

"As much as it's funny for me to be on the side of the road for four hours, I would rather be in a car getting a ride and meeting great people."

The Gitchhiker woke up in Edmonton on Tuesday and hopes to hitch a ride all the way to Saskatoon by Tuesday night. He then plans to head south to Regina on Wednesday.

If he completes his journey in 21 days, Stanfield's will donate $20,000 to the Canadian Cancer Society's below-the-belt cancer research, a cause very dear to McIntyre, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer five years ago.

"Luckily I was diagnosed really early. I was fortunate and am now cancer-free for five years," said McIntyre. "I get an opportunity to do these silly things when maybe some other people can't."

The Gitchhiker is making his way across Canada in nothing but his Stanfield's underwear to help raise awareness about below-the-belt cancer. CONTRIBUTED/ENVIRONICS COMMUNICATIONS

Better than a thumb?

Hitching a ride with social media

The Gitchhiker credits social media with his success in finding rides so far on his 21-day journey.

"If I announce on Twitter that I am having trouble, people will start going crazy just re-tweeting and re-tweeting, and the next thing you know I will get a ride," said McIntyre.

Follow the Gitchhiker on twitter at @gitchhiker.

@gitchhiker
Still looking for someone to take me into Saskatoon! It's -15 don't make me stand outside!! #gitch #help

@gitchhiker
Driving through the prairies with my new ride Danielle...Second hitch of the day! #gitch

Dope-selling coffee shops still open to foreigners—for now

Amsterdam. Justice minister scraps the rollout of a program designed to keep tourists out of the pot-selling java joints

Dope-selling coffee shops in Amsterdam won't be shutting their doors to foreign visitors any time soon, a huge relief to the hundreds of thousands of tourists who enjoy a toke or two in the Dutch capital alongside their excursions on the canals and to the museums.

Amsterdam welcomed Tuesday changes in the national government's drug policies as a green light to let tourists keep rolling in to the city's 220 world-famous cafés that sell cannabis, marijuana and pre-rolled joints alongside cups of coffee.

On Monday night, Justice Minister Ivo Opstelten sent a letter to Parliament announcing he was scrapping a nationwide rollout of the so-called "weed pass" that was designed to keep non-Dutch residents out of those coffee shops.

Beginning earlier this year in the south of the country, locals had to apply for a pass to get into such shops, but non-Dutch residents were barred to crack down on crime.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this April 2012 file photo, a protester from Belgium with a marijuana leaf painted on his face smokes up in Amsterdam. PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ballot measures

Pot possession should remain illegal: UN to U.S.

The head of the UN drug watchdog agency is urging U.S. federal officials to challenge ballot measures in Colorado and Washington that decriminalized possession of small amounts of marijuana for adults over 21.

Raymond Yans says the approvals send "a wrong message to the rest of the nation and it sends a wrong message abroad."

Yans heads the International Narcotics Control Board. He said on Tuesday he hopes the attorney general will take all necessary measures to ensure that marijuana possession and use remains illegal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco. New ordinance prohibits nudity on streets, sidewalks

San Francisco lawmakers have narrowly approved a proposal to ban public nakedness.

The 11-member Board of Supervisors voted 6-5 Tuesday on an ordinance that prohibits exposed genitals in most public places, including streets, sidewalks and public transit. A first offence carries a maximum penalty of a $100 fine, but prosecutors have the authority to charge a third violation as a misdemeanour punishable by up to a $500 fine and a year in jail.

Supervisor Scott Wiener introduced the measure in response to escalating complaints about a group of men whose lack of clothing was an almost daily occurrence in the city's predominantly gay world-famous Castro District.

A federal lawsuit seeking to block the ban was filed ahead of Tuesday's vote.

The municipal politicians rejected arguments that the measure would eat away at a reputation for tolerance enjoyed by a city known for flouting convention and flaunting its counter-culture image.

Wiener's opponents on the board said a ban would draw the attention of cops away from more critical problems. "The Castro, and San Francisco in general, is a place of freedom, expression and acceptance. But (that) does not mean anything goes under any circumstances," Wiener said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the brink of peace?

Midnight tension. Talks on a Gaza ceasefire drag on amid optimism — but Israel and Hamas trade blistering blows

Israel and Hamas edged closer to a ceasefire late Tuesday night.

But after a day of furious diplomatic efforts involving the U.S. secretary of state, the United Nations chief and Egypt's president, a deal remained elusive.

Meanwhile, fighting raged on both sides of the border.

Israeli tanks and gunboats pummelled targets in Gaza in what appeared to be a last-minute burst of fire, while at least 200 rockets were fired into Israel.

As talks dragged on near midnight, UN ambassadors announced the Security Council will hold an open debate on the Gaza crisis Wednesday afternoon if a ceasefire is not called before then.

Earlier in the day, optimism was rampant.

Egypt's President Mohammed Morsi predicted Israeli airstrikes would soon end.

And Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country would be a "willing partner" to a ceasefire with Hamas, the Islamic militant group.

A top Hamas official, too, said a pact was close — even as the relentless airstrikes and rocket attacks continued.

Israel demands an end to rocket fire from Gaza and a halt to weapons smuggling into Gaza through tunnels under the border with Egypt.

Hamas wants the Israelis to halt all their attacks on Gaza and lift the crippling restrictions on trade and movement in and out of the territory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deaths mount

The toll in the Gaza war:

- **Palestinians.** More than 130 Palestinians, both militants and civilians have been killed in Gaza.
- **Israelis.** Four Israeli civilians and one soldier have been killed.

Their young world collapses: Children stand in the rubble left after an Israeli strike on a house in Gaza City on Tuesday. HATEM MOUSSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curbside justice

Suspected traitors shot on street

Masked gunmen publicly shot dead six suspected collaborators with Israel at a large Gaza City intersection Tuesday, witnesses said.

An Associated Press reporter saw a mob surrounding five of the bloodied corpses shortly after the killing.

Some in the crowd stomped and spat on the bodies.

A sixth corpse was tied to a motorcycle and dragged through the streets as the crowd of people screamed, "Spy! Spy!"

The Hamas military wing, Izzedine al-Qassam, claimed responsibility in a large handwritten note attached to a nearby electricity pole.

Hamas said the six were killed because they gave Israel information about fighters and rocket-launching sites. Hamas did not provide any proof of the alleged collaboration.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bye bye, Blighty? EU gets the jitters over possible pullout by fed-up Britain

Goodbye, Britain?

For the European Union, a once-unthinkable question is looking more like a real possibility with each new grinding week of economic crisis.

Bad times are forcing the 17 EU nations that use the euro currency to move ever closer toward some kind of United States of Europe — one that could make decisions about how much member countries spend and how much tax they collect.

And that's a nightmare for Britain.

The British public shows no interest in moving closer to the rest of Europe, and most can't even seem to stomach the status quo.

After a 2015 election, Britain — among 10 of the 27 EU nations that don't use the euro — is likely to hold a referendum on whether to leave the EU.

Even if it doesn't hold a vote, the country is already unpicking its ties with Europe, a movement that has unsettled Germany, which is eager to retain the U.K. as an important economic driver of the bloc.

"I will ask the inhabitants of the wonderful island to reflect that they will not be happy if they are alone in this world," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in a speech in London last week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Storm clouds

The prospect of a U.K. exit from the EU alarms some British leaders who see the bloc's free market as vital to their nation's prosperity.

- **Against:** Former prime minister Tony Blair has urged Britain not to pull away, but to help build a new structure to improve Europe. "It's a very tricky task," he says. "But it's an essential one if the U.K. is not to be sidelined."
- **Also against:** Peter Mandelson, the former European Union trade commissioner, warns that going it alone would mean a waning influence for the U.K. on the global stage. Britain, he says, soon could be a "Hong Kong to Europe's China or a Canada to Europe's United States."

2011 sets a record

A boom year for carbon dioxide

Carbon dioxide reached a record high level in the air in 2011, the United Nations weather agency said Tuesday.

Concentrations of the heat-trapping pollutant in the atmosphere averaged 390 parts per million during the year. That is up 40 per cent from before the Industrial Age, the World Meteorological Organization said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Troops on move

France pulls out of Afghanistan

France on Tuesday ended its combat operations in Afghanistan, pulling hundreds of troops from a base in a volatile region northeast of Kabul and fulfilling promises to end its combat role on a faster track than other NATO allies.

After a handover ceremony with Afghan troops, 500 French combat soldiers in trucks and armoured vehicles left the Nijrab base in the Kapisa region and travelled southwest to Kabul, the capital, said a French military spokesperson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Church of England

Vote blocks women bishops

The Church of England's governing body on Tuesday narrowly blocked a move to permit women to serve as bishops, leaving the church facing more years of debate.

Opponents mustered enough support to deny the necessary two-thirds majority among lay members of the General Synod, with backers falling six votes short of passage.

The defeat was a setback for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who retires at the end of December, and his successor, Bishop Justin Welby.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woman accused

Skeleton parts were sex aids?

A woman in Sweden has been accused of necrophilia after investigators found some 100 skeleton parts in her apartment.

Prosecutor Kristina Ehrenborg-Staffas is quoted as saying the 37-year-old woman is suspected of using the remains, which included six skulls and one backbone, in "sexual situations."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this January 2011 photo, Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash poses with the Sesame Street Muppet in the Fender Music Lodge during the 2011 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. VICTORIA WILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Elmo puppeteer resigns amid sex allegations

Kevin Clash. The man who created the iconic red furry puppet steps down as new underage-sex accusations surface

Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash resigned from Sesame Street on Tuesday amid allegations he sexually abused underage boys, bringing an end to a 28-year career in which he turned the furry red monster into one of the most beloved — and lucrative — characters on TV and in toy stores.

Quoted

"Elmo is bigger than any one person."

A Sesame Workshop statement explaining last week that Elmo is not defined by one person and others have been trained as Clash's stand-in. It remains unclear who will take over the role now.

"Personal matters have diverted attention away from the important work Sesame Street is doing and I cannot allow it to go on any longer," the 52-year-old performer said in a statement.

"I am deeply sorry to be leaving and am looking forward to resolving these personal matters privately."

His departure came as a 24-year-old college student, Cecil Singleton, sued Clash for more than $5 million Tuesday, accusing the actor of engaging in sexual behaviour with him when he was 15. Singleton charged that Clash made a habit of trolling gay chat lines for underage boys and meeting them for sex.

It was the second such allegation in just over a week. On Nov. 12, a man in his 20s said he had sex with Clash at age 16. A day later, though, the young man recanted, saying their relationship was adult and consensual.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Justice

No more hair-removal treatments for transgender inmate: Judge

A U.S. judge says he won't order more hair-removal treatments for a transgender inmate who won a court order for taxpayer-funded sex-change surgery.

The Massachusetts judge also ruled Tuesday that the gender reassignment surgery he ordered for Michelle Kosilek in September will be on hold until the state appeals his ruling.

Kosilek, convicted in the 1990 murder of wife Cheryl Kosilek, was born male but has received hormone treatments and now lives as a woman in an all-male prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mourning

Russian woman kept husband's body with her five children in apartment

Russian authorities say a woman with five children kept her husband's body in their apartment for almost three years after his death.

Prosecutors in the central Yaroslavl region said the unidentified woman, described as a devout Pentecostal Christian with a psychiatric record, was so distraught when her husband died of natural causes in 2009 that she believed he was "bound to resurrect."

An investigation was opened after the body was found in a dumpster in a plastic bag in July.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looters put on notice

Shines restaurant leaves a warning for looters on Tuesday in Long Beach, N.Y. More than three weeks after Superstorm Sandy hit the New York area, residents continue their restoration efforts in many affected areas on Long Island. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

U of T. Gene may predict time of death

It appears the Grim Reaper has a schedule to keep.

A team of scientists led by a University of Toronto neurology professor says it has discovered a gene mutation that determines the time of day a person is most likely to die.

"It's just kind of spooky. I just couldn't believe it," said co-author and Harvard University professor Dr. Clifford Saper.

The study, led by University of Toronto professor Dr. Andrew Lim and published in the November edition of Annals of Neurology, emerged from research into seniors' sleep-wake cycles.

Analyzing 1,200 people who had enrolled in another study as healthy 65-year-olds about 15 years earlier, the researchers set out to investigate why seniors have trouble sleeping and whether they could identify signs of oncoming Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease.

But the study changed tack when Lim discovered a link between sleep patterns and variations in "Period 1," the gene that plays a major role in the internal biological — or circadian — clock.

The team found that people who report waking early in the morning (before 7 a.m.) are more likely to have an adenine (A-A) nucleotide base. Late-risers, on the other hand, are more likely to have a guanine (G-G) nucleotide base. Those who wake up somewhere in the middle have both (A-G).

Having made the link, Lim then wondered whether the mutation played a role in death, so he went back to the database and cross-compared times of death and DNA from those who had passed away.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

McAfee hiding, blogging

Software company founder John McAfee says he's hiding in plain sight, wearing a disguise as he watches police and reporters stake out his home — and blogging about it all.

In the latest twist in the highly-publicized case, McAfee has started his own blog, in which he describes life on the lam after police in Belize called him a "person of interest" in the slaying of fellow American Gregory Viant Faull and asked him to turn himself in for questioning.

In phone interviews with The Associated Press, McAfee has never said where he's hiding. But in his blog this week, he claims to have disguised himself as a grungy street peddler and a foul-mouthed German tourist and claims he approached an Associated Press reporter outside his staked-out home on the Caribbean island of Ambergris Caye and almost sold the reporter a wood carving.

It's hard to separate fact from fiction in the whole account, but one thing is clear — seldom has there been more detailed coverage of someone on the lam since O.J. Simpson led police on a low-speed chase in 1994, and much of that detail is being provided by McAfee himself.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo shows John McAfee in Belize this month.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Idaho

Arrest made in relation to zoo monkey mauling

Police have arrested one of two men who they believe broke into an Idaho zoo the night a monkey there died from blunt-force trauma, but questions remain about how and why the animal was killed.

Michael J. Watkins, 22, was arrested Monday in Washington County on burglary and grand theft charges. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida

13-year-old girl dies in shooting on school bus

Miami-Dade police say a 13-year-old girl has died after she was shot by another student on a school bus.

A male student is in custody and local police say investigators are talking to him. It's not clear what prompted Tuesday morning's shooting in Homestead, south of Miami. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canucks favour relaxed pot laws

Puff popularity. New poll suggests that most Canadians agree with weaker marijuana laws, while only a small minority want them to be tougher

Legalization in Colorado and Washington State has prompted a surge in the decades-old debate over marijuana laws. A new poll suggests that the Canadian government is at odds with most citizens. ED ANDRIESKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new poll shows a clear majority of Canadians support loosening the country's marijuana laws, a stance that seems to be starkly out of sync with the federal government's current pot policy.

According to the poll, released Tuesday by Toronto's Forum Research, 65 per cent of Canadians favour either the legalization and taxation of the drug or decriminalizing it in small amounts.

"Very few want the law to be as it is," said Forum president Lorne Bozinoff, pointing out that 17 per cent believe Canada's current pot laws should remain, while 15 per cent want tougher rules.

"Public opinion has been ahead of government on this issue for a while."

Under the Conservatives, Ottawa has veered toward harsher penalties for marijuana, increasing potential prison time and imposing mandatory jail sentences for growing six or more weed plants.

These strategies have drawn criticism from scientists and organizations such as the Brazil-based Global Commission on Drug Policy, which in March called them "destructive, expensive and ineffective."

Recent developments in the U.S., where marijuana was legalized in Colorado and Washington State in election-day plebiscites, have brought attention to the issue in Canada.

Last week, Liberal leadership candidate Justin Trudeau came out in favour of decriminalization, while leaving the door open to legalization, should he ever come to power.

Forum Research polled 1,849 randomly-selected people with a two per cent margin of error, 19 times out of 20.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Persistent arguments

While the poll shows most favour relaxing marijuana laws, the issue remains divisive:

- **Nanny state.** "I think (the Conservatives) have a morally-based belief model, which is not based on evidence," said Richard Mathias, professor of public health at the University of B.C. "It is paternalism in the extreme."
- **Fools rush in.** Tom Stamatakis, president of the Canadian Police Association, said the public is too hasty to favour relaxing laws. "We don't have the tools and the training available to us now to ensure that people aren't driving cars, for example, or operating machinery, while they're impaired by marijuana," he said.

Alberta. Fifty feral bunnies find reprieve from mass extermination

Animal rescuers have found sanctuary for some feral rabbits being killed in an Alberta mountain town but the group says it's unlikely that all the bunnies can be saved.

The community of Canmore recently started trapping and killing the long-eared lopers to curb their out-of-control population.

Susan Vickery with the Earth Animal Rescue Society says a couple with a farm northwest of Calgary is willing to take in as many as 50 rabbits.

"They've had a lot of dealings with rabbits themselves over the years," Vickery said Tuesday. "They enjoy them. They know their nature.

"And they respect their right to live."

The B.C.-based group helped avoid a mass extermination of Canmore's rabbits last year when it found refuge homes for 213.

But their numbers have continued to grow and last month the town started getting rid of them.

Town spokeswoman Sally Caudill said she doesn't know how many have been killed so far. But she emphasized they are being humanely destroyed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Animal rescuers have found sanctuary for precious few of the feral rabbits being killed in Canmore, a mountain town in Alberta. FACEBOOK.COM

Halifax. Another arrest made after alleged sexual kidnapping of 16-year-old

A 63-year-old Halifax man was charged Tuesday in the investigation into the alleged sexual assault and confinement of a 16-year-old boy.

John MacKean is facing a charge of sexual assault and another prostitution-related charge after being arrested Monday in Fredericton. He appeared in provincial court in Bridgewater, N.S., and was returned to custody until his case comes back to court Thursday.

Crown lawyer Lloyd Tancock said outside court that the second charge was for communicating for the purpose of obtaining sexual services from someone under 18.

Police launched an investigation in September after a woman in Upper Chelsea, N.S., reported that a barefoot teen showed up at her doorstep chained at his wrists and ankles, seeking help.

Officers later issued arrest warrants for David James Leblanc and 31-year-old Wayne Alan Cunningham.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pro-pot researchers say British Columbia could blaze its way to billions in revenue

A new study has rung in British Columbians' pot purchases at about half a billion dollars each year, and its pro-legalization researchers argue that means the province could be bringing in truly massive tax revenues.

Researchers from the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University sought to quantify the retail value of marijuana sold on the black market.

They looked at the price of marijuana and research that suggests more than 366,000 people in B.C. use pot to estimate the pot industry is worth between $443 million and $564 million a year.

The researchers also point to data from Washington State, which recently held a successful referendum to legalize pot, that suggests the same number of pot smokers in that state could bring in $2.5 billion in taxes over five years in a regulated system.

They say the revenues could be used to fund addiction programs and health care, similar to the new system set to be rolled out in Washington and Colorado, where the public recently voted to legalize the drug.

Lead author Dan Werb says regulation is tricky, but replacing drug pushers with the government would allow for far more control over prices and who has access to the product.

Werb and the other researchers are members of the pro-pot Stop the Violence B.C. coalition, which advocates for changes to drug policies designed to take the business of marijuana away from violent organized crime groups and reduce overall use.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM's associates.
Bribery charges laid against key players in U.K. media scandal

Two former confidants of Britain's prime minister have been charged with conspiring to pay public officials in exchange for stories and information — the latest development in the country's establishment-shaking scandal over media malfeasance.

Britain's Crown Prosecution Services said former tabloid editors Andy Coulson and Rebekah Brooks were among five people being charged with conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office. Prosecutors said Brooks, a neighbour, close friend, and political ally of Prime Minister David Cameron, conspired with journalist John Kay to funnel as much as $160,000 to a Ministry of Defence employee in return for a stream of stories that were published in Rupert Murdoch's The Sun newspaper.

The prosecutors alleged Coulson, who until last year served as Cameron's top press aide, conspired with journalist Clive Goodman to pay officials for access to a royal phone directory known as the Green Book. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rogue UBS trader gets 7-year sentence

London trial. 'There is a strong streak of the gambler in you,' judge tells man who lost $2.2B

A rogue trader who lost $2.2 billion US in bad deals at Swiss bank UBS was sentenced to seven years in prison Tuesday after being convicted in what prosecutors called the biggest fraud case in U.K. banking history.

Ghanaian-born Kweku Adoboli, 32, exceeded his trading limits and failed to cover his losses, allegedly faking records to hide his tracks at the bank's London office. At one point, Adoboli risked running losses of up to $12 billion US.

"There is a strong streak of the gambler in you," Judge Brian Keith told Adoboli. "You were arrogant to think the bank's rules for traders did not apply to you."

Adoboli wiped away tears as Keith handed down his sentence.

A conviction for fraud carries a maximum jail term of 10 years. The 10-person jury at Southwark Crown Court in London found Adoboli guilty of two counts of fraud and innocent of four other false accounting charges.

Kweku Adoboli arrives at Southwark Crown Court in London on Nov. 15. On Tuesday, the former UBS trader was found guilty of two counts of fraud. KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adoboli ran into trouble dealing in exchange-traded funds, complex financial products that track stocks, bonds and commodities. Adoboli admitted the losses, but said he was pressured by staff to take risks. He also testified last month that he had been trying to help UBS survive after it amassed losses of $52 billion during the 2007-2008 global financial crisis.

"There were times we thought there was no way the organization would survive," said Adoboli, who joined UBS as a trainee in 2003 and rose quickly to become a senior trader. "I grew up with UBS. I felt very loyal to UBS."

Det. Chief Insp. Perry Stokes of City of London Police, who led the investigation of Adoboli, had a different view, believing the trader's motive was "to increase his bonus, his status, his job prospects and his ego."

"Adoboli was a sophisticated fraudster," Stokes said. "He was one of the most accomplished fraudsters that I've seen in my time investigating serious fraud."

After questions were raised about his trading, Adoboli walked off the job and sent an email to colleagues saying what he had done. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air travel

WestJet customers may get mobile entertainment

WestJet Airlines plans to test a new entertainment system next year that will allow passengers to use their tablets, computers and smart phones to access in-flight television and connect to the Internet, CEO Gregg Saretsky said Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sponsorship

Hockeyville program is latest lockout casualty

Kraft Canada cancelled its popular Hockeyville program Tuesday, a victim of the protracted National Hockey League lockout that is seeing sponsors as well as fans grow weary.

Kraft said it would give $1 million to Hockey Canada–affiliated minor-hockey associations instead of the annual competition that rewards Canadian communities for their involvement in their local arenas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Research in Motion

Analyst gives BB10 better odds

Prominent tech analyst Peter Misek of New York-based Jeffries & Co. is giving Research In Motion's new BlackBerry 10 operating system an improved chance of success in the competitive smartphone market when it launches in early 2013. He now says the system has a 20 per cent to 30 per cent probability of success. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.27¢ (-0.07¢)

TSX 12,046.28 (+5.88)

OIL $86.75 US (-$2.53)

GOLD $1,723.60 US (-$10.80)

Natural gas: $3.84 US (+12¢)
Dow Jones: 12,788.51 (-7.45)

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ON THE ORIGIN OF MIDLIFE CRISES

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's more evidence to prove that homo sapiens is descended from apes.

According to a study involving 500 great apes published in the, ahem, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, chimpanzees and orangutans experience a midlife crisis, just like us.

It's just more difficult to tell, as an ape with angst is unlikely to purchase a Porsche.

I knew it was hereditary! For all we know, it's as universal as life itself: Birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas … if you're alive, you know the exact moment when you're over the hill.

Monkey business

Realizing you're over the hill by 35 is not great news if you live in a zoo, because you can expect to live to 50. That's at least 15 years of same old, same old: monkey chow three times a day, children banging on the glass while their parents take flash photos, and Bonzo over there trying to horn in on your harem.

For humans, it's traditionally 45-55. Chimps turn into chumps around 27 or 28 and orangutans get the memo at about 35.

That's not great news if you live in a zoo, because you can expect to live to 50. That's at least 15 years of same old, same old: monkey chow three times a day, children banging on the glass while their parents take flash photos, and Bonzo over there trying to horn in on your harem.

Of course, this could be more of a comment on the apes' handlers than on the apes themselves, as they were asked to fill out the forms documenting the general mood of their apes, the joy their charges gained from socializing and how would they feel if they had to be an ape for a week.

After a very bad day of putting up with banana breath and monkeyshines, it's only human for a handler to project his or her feelings on the nearest living being, even if said being is more interested in another banana than anything else.

Whatever, the good news is that it gets better.

Just when Bonzo's grinning mug makes Cheetah want to throw his feces, he begins to realize that three squares ain't so bad. After all, he could still be stuck in some jungle in Botswana, dodging lions and poachers, using a stick to root for termites.

This is roughly analogous to the process of acceptance in humans.

If we survive our midlife crises without pitching our feces around the office or getting caught surfing NSFW on the Internet, we can look forward to increasing happiness that reaches its peak around 70.

Of course, there are good reasons old guys are happy. They get there early before the lineups. Plus they get the seniors' discount.

The bottom line: If you're feeling like the pack has passed you by, it has less to do with your sorry circumstances and more to do with your hormonal imbalance.

Just hang on.

Primate Prime Time is about to begin.

I'm not monkeying around — apes experience a midlife crisis, too. IAN WALDIE/GETTY IMAGES

Royals' site causes security concerns

SAC FAYE STORER/MOD/WWW.DUKEANDDUCHESSOFCAMBRIDGE.ORG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tea-d off

Duke and duchess revamp website

This is an undated handout photo issued by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's website on Tuesday of Britain's Prince William making a cup of tea while working as a helicopter search-and-rescue pilot at RAF Valley on Anglesey, Wales.

Many of the exclusive pictures that gave an insight into the life of the flight lieutenant in Wales at his day job pilot had to be taken down hours after they were posted due to security concerns.

The pictures offered a rare look into the typical day in the life for Prince William in his work flying RAF Sea King helicopters from their base at RAF Valley on Anglesey, north Wales — from planning and preparing for any emergency callout to resting with his colleagues during downtime.

But the images also included unclassified user names, passwords and computer screens. Britain's Ministry of Defence said in a statement Tuesday that passwords and user names were reset as a precaution and that the photos were reissued.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shift work

24 hrs

The latest post on the website detailed Prince William's typical schedule of a 24-hour shift as a pilot.

When duty doesn't call

- The site reveals that Call of Duty is a favourite among Prince Will and his friends.
- On Wednesday even more photos will be posted — this time by the Duchess — of the trip she and Will took to Asia in September.
- Will's current tour will end by fall 2013, and at that time he is set to decide if he wants to stay on for a few more years.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Are you afraid Canada could fall off the "fiscal cliff" along with the U.S.?

Twitter

@MacPhersonA: Way too much nipple talk on Twitter this morning. #skpoli

@SeanShaw: Interesting, sport stadiums must currently use disposable utensils and dishware - req will be scrapped under new liquor rules

@jdpitman: Honestly, the new Sask liquor laws are game-changers. Removing TONS of restrictions. Get excited. Big news for local business.

@Troyisawesome: Saskatoon. Where firefighters fight cops, cops pepperspray kids, and kids stab adults.

@Socialbtrfly75: Saskatoon can have stippers again. YES!!!

@japa_gaijin: Since I can't make Leonard Cohen today in #yxe, today's work playlist is entirely dedicated to this amazing Canadian artist.

metro

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The long awaited screen adaptation of The Life of Pi finally arrives in theatres this weekend. HANDOUT

Ocean's raw power inspires, creates cinematic awe in Pi

New release. Life of Pi joins a long list of films who have used the beauty and the beast of the blue as a wild backdrop

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Joseph Conrad wrote of the ocean's awesome power: "The sea has never been friendly to man."

Less eloquent is this quote from Beauty Queens by Libba Bray: "You can't believe how bleeding scary the sea is! There's, like, whales and storms and s—t!"

Not to mention killer whales, giant waves and even H-bomb mutated giant octopuses!

The ocean and its power has been challenging cinematic sailors for decades.

From the early screen adaptations of Moby Dick to the crazy sea monsters of 1950s B-movies to this weekend's The Life of Pi, based on the megahit novel by Yann Martel, the ocean has provided a wet and wild backdrop for Hollywood.

Pi's story of a boy set adrift on the ocean in a lifeboat with only a tiger for a companion is a coming-of-age story that uses the sea as a metaphor. Most films are more literal.

The giant wave that capsizes the ship in The Poseidon Adventure was no metaphor, it was a terrifying display of the ocean's power, even if it was filmed using a 21 foot 6 inch long miniature ship in a 300 by 350 foot water tank on a Hollywood stage.

Filmmakers have often looked to sea creatures for inspiration. Everything from LOTR: Fellowship of the Ring to Sharktopus features fantasy monsters unleashed by the deep. One of the best-known B-movies of the 1950s is It Came From Beneath the Sea, the story of a giant octopus awakened by the radiation from H-bomb tests.

The film was so low budget, special effects wizard Ray Harryhausen cut corners by building his octopus model with six rather than the usual eight tentacles. To cover his cheat, he posed the creature so viewers couldn't count the arms.

Finally, Orca, the best known of the killer whale movies, shows a much more real threat.

Or does it?

The joke is that killer whales aren't all that dangerous — to humans anyway.

"There has never been a substantiated case of an orca killing a man," wrote Outside magazine's Tim Cahill, "despite the 1977 movie Orca, in which a killer whale seeks revenge on Richard Harris by eating all his co-stars. The movie was so silly, unscientific and unbelievable that one critic suggested Harris fight a duel to the death with his agent for getting him the role."

Life of Pi

Life of Pi is a fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001.

- **Background.** The main character, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a young Indian boy, explores issues of spirituality and practicality.
- **Awards.** The book was chosen for CBC Radio's Canada Reads 2003. The year before, it won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Martel was only the third Canadian to ever win the literary legends nod. It dates back to 1969.

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Out of the closet and on to Broadway

Music. R. Kelly reveals he is working to bring his Trapped in the Closet series to the stage

R. Kelly is working on a Broadway adaptation of Trapped in the Closet. MARK J. TERRILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is Broadway ready for Twan, Sylvester, Pimp Lucius and "the package?"

R. Kelly thinks so — and says he's working to bring the wacky characters and plotlines in his even wackier Trapped in the Closet series to the Great White Way.

The superstar announced Monday night that he's had an offer to bring the cult classic to the stage, and he may even be in some performances.

"To transform it into a Broadway version, that's what I'm working on," he told a packed house at the Sunshine Theater, where he unveiled the latest chapters of Trapped in the Closet, which will debut on the IFC channel on Friday.

Kelly gave no other details about a possible Broadway adaptation of the wildly popular video opera. It got its start from a stirring series of songs Kelly debuted in 2005, which ended with a cliffhanger. The songs captured so much attention that Kelly made an over-the-top video series about it that just got crazier and crazier as he added more chapters.

Kelly has often referred to Trapped as an alien, and on Monday, he said: "I'm glad to be one of the astronauts to take this thing to the unknown."

He thanked the enthusiastic crowd for accepting the series, and admitted that he always wanted to act.

"Somehow, I landed Trapped in the Closet from being silly."

He also joked about the ridiculous nature of the series.

"I'm just having a lot of fun. I don't have a job, so I sit in the studio all day and think of stuff to do and this is just something stupid I've done that's been successful for me," he said. "I'm having a lot of fun with it."

The latest chapters introduce a few new faces, and like the others series, ends with a cliffhanger. While it's taken Kelly five years to add these latest chapters, Kelly says he won't take as long to produce more.

"I want everybody to know I've got 85 chapters of Trapped in the Closet waiting in the studio for y'all," he said. "The chapters that are coming — the show, we call it — is going to exceed every chapter that you have ever seen."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"The show, we call it — is going to exceed every chapter that you have ever seen."

R. Kelly
Talking about Trapped in the Closet.

Nicki Minaj Re-Upping with another release

New music. Rapper, pop-star talks about second CD's re-release, American Idol and working with Mariah Carey (sort of)

Nicki Minaj, the rapper who has had much success on the pop charts with songs like Starships and Super Bass, says the re-release of her sophomore album will be nostalgic for her early fans.

"The feel of the re-release is kind of like my first sound, like the mixtapes," she said of Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded — The Re-Up, out Tuesday.

The re-release comes seven months after Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts. That album features pop, dance, R&B, reggae and rap sounds. It's a far stretch from when Minaj kicked off her career as a sexed-up street rapper, signed by Lil Wayne in 2009 after she released three buzzed-about mixtapes. Her official debut, Pink Friday, is near double platinum and was nominated for a Grammy Award.

But the 29-year-old says she's "back to basics" on her eight-track Re-Up, which features Lil Wayne, Tyga and some of Minaj's protégés.

"It sounds probably more hood in some ways, for a lack of a better word," she said.

Her pop fans won't be disappointed, though: There's also the Dr. Luke-produced, dance-flavoured Va Va Voom.

In a recent telephone interview, Minaj talked about her new music, artists she is mentoring and working (kind of) with Mariah Carey on American Idol.

What's the energy like on the re-release?
I studied a lot of the production side of this particular re-release. It was just important that the beats sounded a certain way. ... I was really able to step up the writing on it as well.

Quoted

"It sounds probably more hood in some ways, for a lack of a better word."

Nicki Minaj
Talking about the re-release of her album

This album features some of your signed artists, Parker and Thomas Brinx. How's it feel to pay it forward?
It's exciting, because I think that I'm finally in a position to open doors for other people and it's a great feeling because I feel like they're so, so talented. Parker, he's actually from London and he's a writer, producer, singer ... and I'm going to be putting out music with him at the top of the year. ... Brinx was someone that I knew for a long time. I was rapping with him before I even got a deal and his skills have always been so exceptional. ... So I always felt like if I got an opportunity I would bring him along and now I have that opportunity.

You let cameras follow you for a three-part reality special on E! What was that like?
It's been fun because I think that my fans are getting a real kick out of it. I'm happy I did it.

Is working as a judge on American Idol what you thought it would be like?
No. ... They're very long days and that's the biggest thing I didn't really expect. ... I'm used to being able to handle my business at any time, and when it's American Idol, sometimes we're in one place for eight hours judging people and I can't go to my BlackBerry every five minutes like I'm used to.

How are you and Mariah Carey, another new judge on Idol, getting along?
(Click.) THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nicki Minaj is releasing Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded — The Re-Up on Tuesday. EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reviews

Red Dawn

Starring. Chris Hemsworth, Adrianne Palicki

Director. Dan Bradley

The original Red Dawn was such a product of the Cold War paranoia that remaking it seems doomed for failure. Spokane, Wash., is the target of an invasion that leaves a group of students in the surrounding hills launching guerilla-style assaults. A cyber weapon knocks out communications, ensuring that nothing modern is going to creep into this do-over that follows the original's plot points to a T. The cast are likeable and some of the action sequences are thrilling. But changing the invaders from Chinese to North Korean in post-production leaves gaps in the story and does little to boost the inanity of the plot. **IAN GORMELY**

Reviews

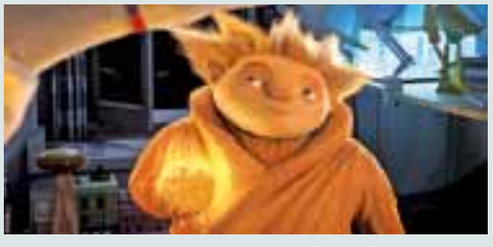
Life Of Pi

Starring. Suraj Sharma

Director. Ang Lee

Based on Yann Martel's mega-hit 2001 novel, Life of Pi stars Suraj Sharma as Pi Patel, a 16-year-old boy set adrift on a lifeboat after the freighter his family was taking from India to a new life in Canada sinks. His companion is Richard Parker, a Bengal tiger, and refugee from the Patel family zoo. The metaphorical and introspective story is complimented by many startlingly beautiful images and a spiritual undertow. Despite drifting off course from time to time with some ill advised magic realism and some repetition, Lee for the most part steers the story into safe, comforting waters. **IAN GORMELY**

Reviews



Rise of the Guardians

Starring. Alec Baldwin, Hugh Jackman

Director. Peter Ramsey

A wacky adventure that casts legendary characters like Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny in some sort of superhero squad, Rise of the Guardians may be kitschy, but the storyline never quite gels amidst its frenetic, plentiful 3D-action.

While the tale of these icons defending the innocence of adolescents from the Bogeyman seems earnest enough, the film feels like a forced renovation on famous folklore for today's toddlers. **STEVE GOW**

Galaxy Cinemas Saskatoon

Life of Pi 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-9:50

Red Dawn (PG) Wed-Thu 8-10:20
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 7:40-10:05

Florida death row inmate may be involved in killing of O.J. Simpson's ex-wife: Documentary

A documentary about an inmate on Florida's death row says the convicted killer might have been involved in the murder of O.J. Simpson's ex-wife and her friend.

The Investigation Discovery show, My Brother the Serial Killer, will air Wednesday.

The doc is a look at Glen Rogers, who was convicted by a Florida jury in 1997 for killing a woman.

Rogers was also convicted of murder in California and is a suspect in homicides in several other states.

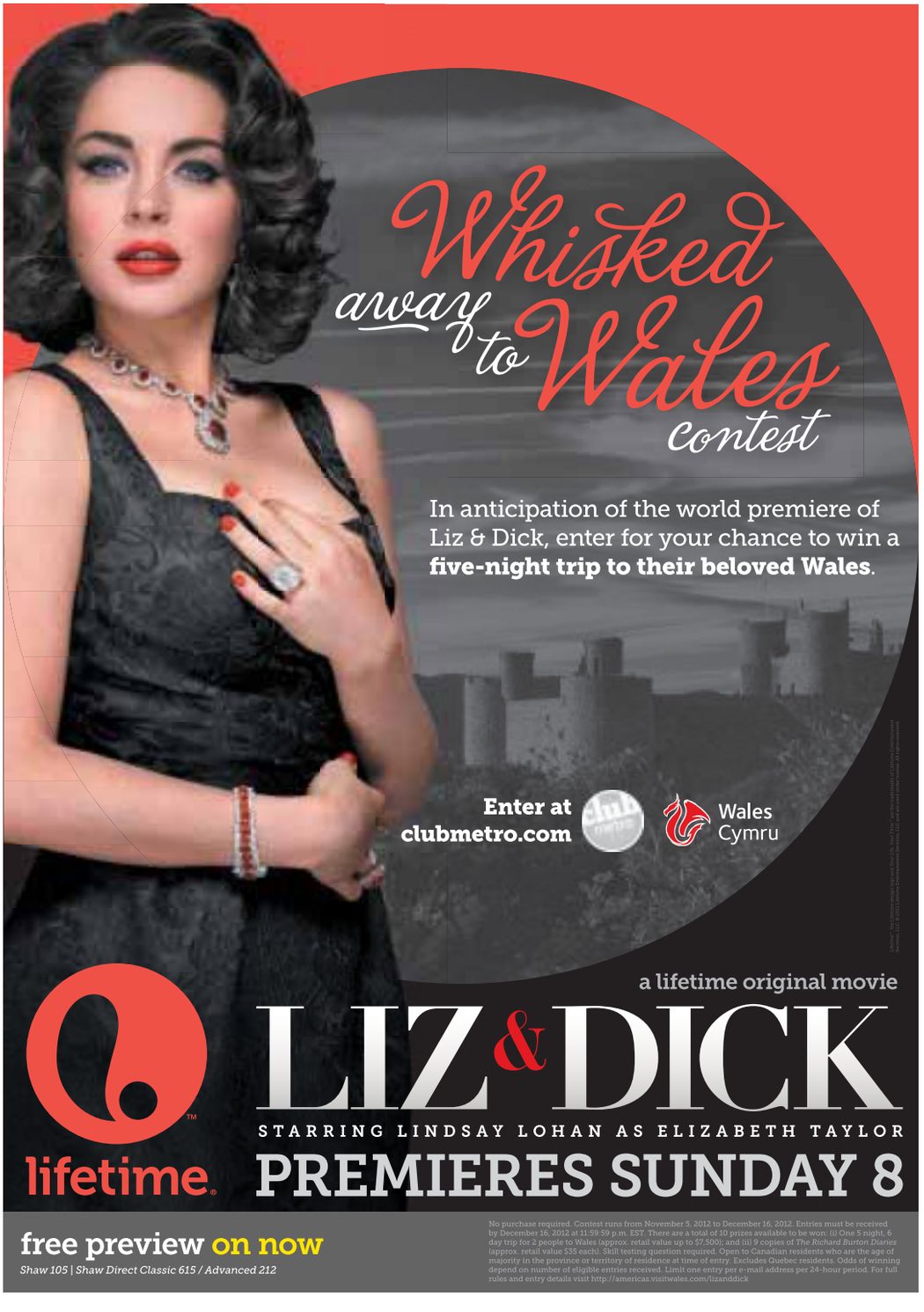
Rogers, who is from Hamilton, Ohio, met Nicole Brown Simpson in 1994 when he was living in Southern California, his family says in the documentary.

A criminal profiler in the film says he received paintings by Rogers with clues possibly linking him to the 1994 murders of Simpson's ex-wife and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Simpson was accused in those killings, but the so-called "trial of the century" in Los Angeles ended with his acquittal in 1995.

Simpson never testified at the criminal trial, but memorably demonstrated in court that a glove found near the slaying scene did not fit his hand. He testified at length in a wrongful death trial that led a Los Angeles civil court jury in 1997 to find him liable for damages in the case.

Much of the film is narrated by Rogers' brother, Clay Rogers, who used to rob homes with Glen Rogers as a teen, but in 1993 called police on his brother after finding a body at the family's Kentucky cabin. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**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Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Gomez and Bieber caught cuddling after AMAs

It's getting tough to keep track of where Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez are in their breaking up and making up.

After a fiery, argument-filled dinner this weekend that ended with Gomez storming off, the pair apparently reunited after the American Music Awards Sunday night to celebrate Bieber's wins, according to Us Weekly.

Gomez and Bieber hit up a private party hosted by Bieber's manager, sticking to a hidden table in the back room with plenty of security around as they snuck in a few kisses, a source reveals, adding that they were, "dancing on each other. They seemed to be in great spirits and were clearly enjoying their time together."

They reportedly left together through a back exit at around 2:30 a.m.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Rihanna's fans (hostages) finally released from her tour

THE WORD
Katarina Matsson
scene@metronews.ca

Monday night was Ri-Ri's final show in New York, finishing off a week of mayhem at 35,000 feet. Metro has been by her side for seven crazy days.

Back up by 24 hours: Prior to Monday's show in London, Rihanna was at the Westfield Shopping mall in Stratford (built just before the Olympic Games), to set the Christmas light display ablaze. Rumour has it she got $793,000 to show up, but there's no confirmation yet. There, Rihanna holds the closest she has gotten to a press conference.

"I love this album like it wasn't my own!" she exclaims.

After one song, she takes off in a golf cart, leaving her fans disappointed.

"I've been waiting since 12 o'clock," fan Vanessa Leadbitter says. "I love Rihanna, but she could have played more than one song!"

Fast-forward five hours and we're at the venue: The Forum in London's Kentish Town area.

Rihanna enters on time (almost), which might have something to do with the fact that Jay-Z is livestreaming the gig. The star puts on her best performance since Stockholm, despite technical problems.

At the after-party, she's nowhere to be seen, but the backing band are pleased.

"It helps not being four hours late," one mutters.

At 3 a.m., the buses leave the hotel for the airport. A mere six hours after that, we're on the plane to New York.

Ashton Kutcher

Kutcher following Kunis around on her shooting schedule

Ashton Kutcher seems to be choosing where to spend his time these days based on where rumoured girlfriend Mila Kunis is shooting a movie.

After a few months in New York, the couple has now been spotted in Rome, where Kunis is filming The Third Person, according to Hollyscoop.

They also found time for some romantic dinners out and strolling around the city hand-in-hand, doing little to keep their relationship under wraps.

Evan Rachel Wood

Wood shoots down pregnancy rumours

Newlywed Evan Rachel Wood is combatting pregnancy rumours after she was photographed this week in L.A. grabbing her stomach and wearing a baggy poncho while grocery shopping with husband Jamie Bell.

The speculation is unfounded, though, the actress insists.

"Sorry to disappoint. But no baby on the way here," Wood posted to Twitter after the photos hit gossip sites.

The pair quietly tied the knot three weeks ago.

Twitter

@Rosie
Ready for my post heart attack cardio workout ... Starting not to hate it ... A huge plus

@ABFoundation
Canada is lovely. Canadians are lovely.

@EmmaBunton
I've been up so long feels like lunch time, hungry!

@prattprattpratt
A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down? But it doesn't help the diabetes. Think Poppins! You can't afford to lose another child.

Disney's Magic Europe

Starting June, 2013, the Disney Magic cruise ship sails to new ports in Turkey and Italy. Disney Cruise Line partners with local tourist companies to deliver unique family oriented Port Adventures. These pre-booked excursions include activities for the whole family. The Magic will have four, seven, and 12 days sailings to the Mediterranean this summer.

STORY AND PHOTOS: KATHY BUCKWORTH
life@metronews.ca

Turkey

A scavenger hunt in St. John Basilica has guests following clues and finding treasures to help an archaeologist (actor) solve a puzzle, while touring this ancient church, home to St. John the Apostle's burial spot. The hunt continues in the ancient Roman city of Ephesus, where groups can speak with a real archeologist to learn the art of a "dig" and look for treasure. A lunch tour features Grecian gowns for guests to wear as they eat typical Roman food, meet Cleopatra and judge an epic battle between two gladiators. Disney gives parents the opportunity to shop in Sirince, while kids are given a lesson on how to make typical glass bead bracelets or necklaces. A trip to the traditional Turkish Bath is also organized.

Rome

Every Disney Mediterranean cruise stops in Rome, and most cruisers want to hit "the big five." The Vatican (museum), St. Peter's Basilica, the Coliseum, the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. There are a variety of port excursions to choose for these. Other Port Adventures include the Gallerie Borghese and Teatro del Burattino. Unique to Disney, a puppet show in English delights the kids while parents grab 45 minutes of shopping (or a quick gelato) at the nearby Spanish Steps. Kids are supervised by youth counsellors from the ship; parents are welcome to stay. An adult-only activity is offered at the ArtStudio Café to create mosaic art under the direction of one of Rome's premier artists, while enjoying wine, local cheese and cured meats.

Venice

Venice is the only overnight stop on the 12-day cruise. Developed for kids, Venetian mask making is proving to be popular for families. Guidance is provided by professional mask makers as guests paint and decorate a unique souvenir. The Canottieri Bucintoro rowing club will take guests aged 16 and over for a unique three hour opportunity to learn how to row like a Gondolier in the waters of Venice. Participants are awarded a certificate in "voga veneta", as well as prosecco and snacks. Venice's most famous landmark, the Doge's Palace, is made available for a private tour after hours, and in true Disney style, a special reception at the end of the tour is hosted by Disney Princesses, who come ashore from the ship.

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Practice your 'salut' in the sun in Guadeloupe. PHOTOS: METRO WORLD NEWS

There's plenty of Spanish and sightseeing in Cartagena.

Head out to rural Japan to really immerse yourself in the language.

French in Guadeloupe

Trade: If you've already done Paris and Nice, why not take off to Guadeloupe in the Caribbean to learn French.

Why? Make a beach holiday of your French-language immersion program by doing it on the butterfly-shaped paradise island of Guadeloupe. It's a French Overseas Department, so technically it's still France. You can spend euros here and eat delicious patisserie, but in between lessons, you can also spend time snorkeling over coral reefs, topping up your tan on the beach and exploring the rainforests and mountains.

Learn: At Media Langues Guadeloupe, you'll learn French in intensive classes of up to six. From $360 for a 20-hour week. medialangues-guadeloupe.com

Spanish in Colombia

Trade: Make a change from Madrid by improving your Spanish in Cartagena, Colombia.

Why? Cartagena is one of the hippest places in South America, a coastal city with a vibrant new town, picturesque Old Town and of course a strip of silvery sand. You can brush up on your Spanish here while enjoying the museums and architecture of this UNESCO World Heritage City.

Learn: At Nueva Lengua, a school based in an attractive colonial house in the walled Old Town, steps away from the beach, you can learn straight Spanish or combine it with other lessons. From $200/week. nuevalengua.com.

Japanese in the countryside

Trade: Skip Tokyo's big-city lights and learn Japanese in Japan's stunning countryside.

Why? You'll get a whole different type of immersion if you learn Japanese while volunteering on a rural organic farm, sea kayaking centre, bee-keeping farm, Japanese tea house or in a ski resort guest-house. For a start, there will be fewer people that you can get away with speaking your own language with. Live and volunteer on rural farms and you'll improve your Japanese quickly while enjoying real cultural immersion.

Learn: Find a host and farm that suits your current level of Japanese language through the cultural volunteering organization Wwoof. Membership is $69.

Chinese in Yunnan, China

Trade: Shanghai and Beijing are cosmopolitan and modern. Get a feel for the real modern China and study Mandarin in Yunnan province.

Why? This un-touristy province in southwest China, close to northern Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, offers a sort of best-of for China, with rainforests in the south and Tibetan towns and the Himalayas to the north. Even in the capital of Kunming, you'll be one of just a handful of foreigners.

Learn: At the Minds Abroad school, students learn through small group lessons, language exchanges schemes and volunteering experiences. From $299/week. mindsabroad.com.

Brush up on English in the Whitsundays

Trade: You don't need to get rained on in London to learn English — fly to Australia's Whitsunday Islands for immersion in English — and the ocean.

Why? What's not to like about an English school that's steps away from a tropical beach? The Whitsundays are in Queensland, just near the Great Barrier Reef so you can improve your English, then get a job in a hotel, café or tour company while perfecting your scuba diving.
Learn: The Whitsundays College of English offers classes for all ages, levels and lengths of time, as well as additional sailing and diving courses.
From $200/week. collegeofenglish.com.au/whitsundays

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Roasted Vegetable Quiche offers a hint of delicious cheesy indulgence

Roasted Vegetable Quiche

This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This simple, colourful quiche is jammed with seasonal vegetables and has just enough rich Gruyère to make it taste indulgent.

But the most indulgent aspect of this recipe is that it can be prepared and baked the day before your next family dinner, meaning you have one less dish to worry about on the day of.

Just pop it into a 300 F oven for 10 to 15 minutes to warm right before serving.

1. Heat the oven to 400 F.

2. In a large bowl, toss together the red pepper, red onion, sweet potato and zucchini. Add the olive oil, rosemary, salt and pepper, then stir to coat. Spread the mixture on a rimmed baking sheet and roast for 30 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender and beginning to brown. Remove the vegetables from the oven.

3. Reduce the heat to 350 F.

4. If it isn't already, fit the pie crust into a pie pan, crimping the edges as needed. Place the pie shell on a baking sheet and add the roasted vegetables. Top with the cheese.

5. In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs and the half-and-half. Pour over the cheese and vegetables. Bake for 45 minutes, or until slightly puffed and set in the middle. Allow to cool slightly before serving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 red bell pepper, cored and diced
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 small sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 medium zucchini, diced
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp minced fresh rosemary
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 prepared raw 9-inch pie crust
- 3/4 cup shredded cheese
- 6 eggs
- 1 cup half-and-half

Drink of the Week

No. 11

We're not sure why it's called No. 11 but this drink combines bitters with honey and vanilla for a very unique combination.

- Dash Angostura bitters
- 1 bar spoon of honey syrup
- 2 oz vanilla bean bourbon

Stir the Angostura bitters, honey syrup and vanilla bean bourbon; strain into a glass with ice and garnish with three brandied cherries.

METRO WORLD NEWS/JOHN MCCARTHY, WHITEHALL BAR AND KITCHEN IN NEW YORK

Lemon Pecan Mousse Cake: A delicately sweet treat

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Lightly coat a 9-inch springform pan with baking spray.

2. In a food processor, combine the pecans, cake flour and 1/4 cup of the sugar. Process until finely ground. Transfer to a large bowl and set aside.

3. In bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the egg yolks and another 1/4 cup sugar until thick and pale. Set aside.

4. In another clean bowl with a clean whisk, beat together the egg whites, salt and the remaining 1/4 cup sugar until thick and glossy stiff peaks form.

This recipe serves 12. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5. Gently fold the egg yolks and half of the egg whites into the pecan flour. Fold the remaining egg whites into the mixture until thoroughly but gently combined. Spoon the mixture into the prepared pan and bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted at the centre comes out clean. Set aside, in the pan, to cool completely.

6. While the cake is baking, begin the mousse. In a medium saucepan, whisk together the cornstarch and sugar, then add the eggs and whisk until smooth. Add the lemon juice and zest, then set over medium heat. Whisking constantly, bring the mixture to a boil; cook until it thickens. If there are any lumps, strain the mixture. Transfer to a large bowl and set aside to cool.

7. Once cake and mousse base are cool, in bowl, use an electric mixer to whip heavy cream to medium peaks. Fold half cream into the mousse base. When thoroughly combined, fold in the remaining whipped cream. Spoon mixture onto the cake. Garnish with toasted pecans and refrigerate at least 2 hours.

8. When ready to serve, run a paring knife around the edge of the pan and loosen the sides. Remove the sides of the springform pan and serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

For the pecan sponge cake:
- 5 oz (1 1/4 cups) pecans, toasted and cooled, plus a few more for garnish
- 1/2 cup sifted cake flour
- 3/4 cup sugar, divided
- 4 eggs, separated
- Pinch of salt

For the lemon mousse:
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2/3 cup lemon juice
- Zest of 2 lemons
- 2 1/2 cups heavy cream

Cornbread-Stuffing Mushrooms. An attractive appetizer

1. Heat the oven to 350 F.

2. Arrange the mushrooms on a rimmed baking sheet, gill sides up. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, then roast for 15 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt the butter. Add the onion and leek and sauté until tender, about 7 to 8 minutes. Add the carrot, celery, thyme and rosemary and cook until tender, about another 5 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and gently fold in the cornbread.

4. When the mushrooms are done, pour any liquid that has collected on the rimmed baking sheet into the cornbread mixture. If the mixture is dry, sprinkle in a bit of vegetable broth. Gently mix. Spoon the mixture into the mushroom caps and return to the oven. Bake for 20 minutes, or until lightly browned on top.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 8 large portobello mushroom caps
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 medium leek, green and white parts, sliced
- 1 medium carrot, grated
- 1 celery stalk, finely diced
- 1 tbsp chopped thyme
- 2 tsp chopped rosemary
- 2 cups diced cornbread
- Vegetable broth, as needed

To market, to market to land a new gig

Create your dream career. How to break into the marketing field without a business degree

JUSTINE ABIGAIL YU
TalentEgg.ca

More than the degree, employers want to see that you can apply yourself creatively, so step up and show them something different.. ISTOCK

"You're an artsie, you're an artsie, you're an artsie overjoyed… but you'll always be an artsie and you'll never be employed!"

Or so the chant goes. This was one of the playful taunts that would be hurled at us arts students back in university.

I studied political science and sociology in my undergrad and one question I always used to get from family and friends was, "What are you gonna do with that?"

Well, let's just say I turned it into a blossoming career (modesty aside) in communications and marketing for the non-profit sector. It's not quite the traditional or linear route, but is there ever such a thing in life?

I first broke into the industry back in 2009 with a winning combination of great timing, determination, and good ol' fashioned hard work.

Social media (now part and parcel of marketing and communications) was just beginning to blow up in the non-profit world and I somehow nabbed myself a social media internship at an international development organization. Since then, I've worked in communications and marketing positions with non-profits and businesses alike. So how do I do it even without the degree?

Hit the books

A lot of what I've learned has been self-taught. I hit the books and the blogs to learn about basic marketing principles and to keep up with the latest social media trends.

It's something that I haven't stopped doing since I entered the field. In the fast-paced technological world we live in today, it's essential to keep up with the latest trends to keep your edge.

Be a Jack of all trades and a master of one

Who ever said that this had to be an either/or option? I honestly believe that in today's world, it's not enough that you just specialize in one thing and one thing alone. You've got to have a wide and diverse set of skills to thrive in this dynamic and often uncertain economy.

That's why I continually build on my skill set, learning the basics of coding and Photoshop while exploring new tech tools available. Trust me, there is great value in this versatility and being someone that your employers can always count on ain't a bad thing!

Leverage that arts degree

I didn't go to business school and I don't have a marketing or communications degree, but my background as an arts student has equipped me with skills absolutely vital in this field. I've leveraged the analytical, research and communication skills that every arts student has mastered (or at least should have mastered) after four years of undergrad.

Dream it, be it

"Live and breathe the position you want to see yourself in and present yourself as such."
Justine Abigail Yu

Network, network, network

When I first started, I networked like crazy. In fact, I still do and you should too. Attend industry events and connect with all kinds of professionals more experienced than you. Set up informational interviews to really immerse yourself in the field and extract as much knowledge and information from them as possible.

Market yourself

What kind of marketer or communicator would you be if you couldn't even sell yourself, right? Build your personal brand and carve a niche for yourself. Find a way to set yourself apart from the rest of the crowd. I've done that by making a home for myself on the Internet and giving an alternative to that boring old text-based resumé.

Fake it 'til you make it

The rest is what I like to call faking it 'til you make it. For a while, you'll feel like a bit of a sham working in the field without the degree or experience (I know I did!), but trust me, that stuff is overrated. Live and breathe the position you want to see yourself in and present yourself as such. Learn the ropes, work relentlessly hard, make those connections and before you know it, you've broken into the industry and are probably rocking it without even realizing it.

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Student voice

How far must we go to get a foot in the door?

Eric Bodourian
Student
Environmental Geosciences
Brock University
TalentEgg.ca

I have had such little luck looking for work.

I originally graduated with a three-year diploma in chemical engineering technology in 2008, but I was unable to find a position. I then decided to return to school to complete my undergraduate degree in environmental geosciences.

I have spent the last year or so testing the market for what is available in terms of internships, full- or part-time work and volunteering, and I have not been able to make any sort of impression.

I have even resorted to emailing and writing letters to consulting companies and other various firms, telling them I would be willing to work for free. This generated a tepid response at best.

I have been to some of the job forums in Toronto recently, including the Green Jobs Forum, and I tried making connections with some of the lecturers and professionals who I felt shared the same interests as I do. It has been the same story: I cannot seem to get any further along the way of landing even an unpaid internship.

I have emailed, called and left voicemails for potential employers just for the purpose of asking some questions and maybe getting some information about their job outlook, but I have come up far too short.

I have spent more than six years in post-secondary institutions and I cannot get an employer to take a second look at me and offer me at least an interview.

I am frustrated as I am unemployed and scheduled to start paying back my student loan this month.

Help!

What I'm doing now

I am currently taking correspondence to finish up my B.Sc. I spend at least four to five hours a day trying to build my resumé and applying for jobs, internships and volunteer work. I have not even been able to find any sort of work-related volunteer positions.

My advice for employers, schools and career centres

I would recommend that employers take more of a chance on new graduates. They do not need to even pay us, but in terms of allowing us access to the experience and resources we need to start our careers, that would be a big bonus. I would also suggest that school career centres could be of more help, but from my understanding, even the professors are having trouble finding internships for a lot of the students that are requesting them.

My advice for students

All I would say is that you need to try to utilize all the resources you can. It also seems to be better to make as many contacts as possible.

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4 SPORTS

CFL

Ticats making move to Guelph during stadium construction

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats will play CFL home games next season at the University of Guelph while their new stadium is being built, says team president Scott Mitchell.

The university stadium only has 7,500 seats currently and Mitchell couldn't say yet exactly how many might be added next year, but he said there should be enough to accommodate all season-ticket holders in some fashion.

"I think any facility we were looking at, obviously, for 2013 was going to require some temporary facilities and infrastructure," Mitchell said Tuesday.

A new 24,000-seat field is being built on the site of Ivor Wynne Stadium, the team's home for the past 84 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Accolades pile up for Argos' Owens

Chad Owens has reached another high point in his stellar season after winning the CFL offensive player of the week award for his role in leading the Toronto Argonauts to a berth in the 100th Grey Cup.

The Toronto slotback registered a club playoff record 207 yards on 11 receptions in the Argonauts' 27-20 win over the Montreal Alouettes in the East Division final on Sunday. He had a 70-yard reception early in the third quarter that set up a momentum-grabbing touchdown for Toronto.

It was also a milestone for the West's outstanding player nominee. Calgary running back Jon Cornish was named top Canadian after helping the Stampeders advance to the Grey Cup with a 34-29 win over B.C.

The New Westminster, B.C., native ran for a game-high 112 yards on 18 carries and also added 42 yards on two receptions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argos slotback Chad Owens
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Stampeders lineman Obby Khan arrives with his teammates in Toronto for the 100th annual Grey Cup on Tuesday. VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stamps cowboy-up for Toronto arrival

CFL. Lineman Khan and teammates 'representing Western Canada' upon touchdown in Ontario

Calgary offensive lineman Obby Khan has been to three Grey Cups in the past five seasons, so he considers himself something along the lines of the older, wiser, elderly statesman of his unit.

That's why, when the Stampeders landed in Toronto Tuesday evening, Khan was among the players who elected to dress "cowboy" instead of suit and tie.

"Are you kidding, we're representing Western Canada," said Khan, the six-foot-four, 270-pounder who might have been the biggest cowboy on his team Tuesday night.

"You get a chance to dress up like this once a year if you are lucky, so why not take advantage and have some fun. And it's natural for me, since I am the best-dressed, best-looking (offensive lineman) here."

The "older and wiser" reference is Khan's own phrasing. At 32, the Ottawa native is indeed the oldest O-lineman Calgary will suit up for the 100th Grey Cup Sunday against the Argos.

Khan was sporting a sheriff's badge on his plaid shirt. The badge is symbolic of his elderly status. Khan, though, fell short in the 2011 Grey Cup with Winnipeg, and suffered a leg injury in 2007 with the Bombers that kept him out of the game.

So when Stampeders coach John Hufnagel gave his club the option to dress western or suit and tie for the trip to Toronto, Khan wasn't about to let the fun pass him by.

"I never cowboyed up before," Khan said.

"We went to these stores last night.... I didn't know python-skin boots came in size 14."

That's the way the Stamps entered the Toronto scene.

The team aimed to hit the big city wrapped in a little western-themed clothing. The week will get progressively more intense and focused, so a little fun on the way in helped break up the seriousness that will be at hand in the 100th Grey Cup game Sunday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"I'm from Detroit. We don't do Cowboy."

Stampeders quarterback Kevin Glenn, who arrived in Toronto in a costly suit, a couple of high-end suitcases and a pair of Stampeders-red headphones.

CFL. Fans show Argonauts love at downtown rally

As the Calgary Stampeders slogged through traffic to their hotel from Pearson Airport to begin the hectic business of Grey Cup week, the Toronto Argonauts were having a love-in with their fans at a downtown rally.

About 2,000, many wearing the Argonauts' Double Blue jersey, cheered and shouted "Ricky, Ricky" for star quarterback Ricky Ray at Yonge-Dundas Square on Tuesday evening in support of a team that earned the rare chance to play a Grey Cup game at home.

The Argonauts will face the Stampeders in the CFL championship game Sunday at Rogers Centre.

"You're always trying to make them proud," said Ray, the veteran who was acquired from Edmonton last winter in a bid to get the Argonauts into the 100th Grey Cup on home turf. "True fans have stuck with us all year long and we're getting some new fans too who are really catching on to the excitement we've been able to capture late in the season.

"This is what we play for — these people and this city — and we're just looking forward to playing for the championship."

The teams get down to business Wednesday with practices at the domed stadium.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argos quarterback Ricky Ray waves to fans on Tuesday night in Toronto.
FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLS. Beckham vague about plans for his future

David Beckham meets with reporters on Tuesday in Carson, Calif.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

David Beckham will announce the next stop in his football career near the end of the year. Until then, he's focusing on winning one more trophy with the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Beckham said on Tuesday he has "exciting opportunities on the table" to continue playing after he leaves the Galaxy next month, capping a six-season U.S. career with Los Angeles' second straight appearance in the MLS Cup final on Dec. 1.

"I still feel that I have something left in me as a player," Beckham said at the Galaxy training complex. "I still feel like I have one more challenge in me as a player. Even at 37 years old, I still can play at a high level. Where that will be yet, I haven't decided.

"Right now my focus is on the final," he added. "Once that's out of the way, we have an (exhibition) tour to deal with and then it's Christmas, which we always spend in London, so I'll be there and I'll make the decision then."

The English midfielder wasn't specific about where he might end up next, deflecting questions about every destination from Australia and China to France and Britain. While discussing his future in the most oblique terms, Beckham only confirmed he won't move to New York or any other MLS team.

"There are options, and I'm very lucky at my age to have options," Beckham said.

After two strong MLS seasons largely free from major injuries, Beckham says he's leaving Los Angeles only because he reached every goal he set for himself in his landmark move stateside in 2007.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

76ers rise above Raptors

The Philadelphia 76ers' Jason Richardson shoots over the Toronto Raptors' Amir Johnson on Tuesday in Philadelphia. Richardson scored six of his 21 points late in the fourth quarter and the 76ers rallied to beat the Raptors 106-98. MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guess who's back? Jays bring in Gibbons

MLB. Crazy week in Toronto takes another wild turn with hiring of former manager

Newly reinstated Blue Jays manager John Gibbons speaks to members of the media in Toronto on Tuesday.
NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In one of the most hectic 24-hour periods in team history, the Toronto Blue Jays saved the biggest surprise for last.

Hot on the heels of having their mammoth 12-player trade with the Miami Marlins approved by Major League Baseball and finalizing a contract with controversial free-agent outfielder Melky Cabrera, the Blue Jays unexpectedly named John Gibbons as their new manager Tuesday.

Gibbons returns to the Toronto dugout after managing the Blue Jays from 2004 to 2008.

"This came as a big surprise to me," Gibbons said at a Rogers Centre press conference. "It's really a thrill and an honour to be back. I never would have guessed that this could happen."

Gibbons, who had a 305-305 record in his first stint with the Blue Jays, says he has some unfinished business to take care of in a city starved for a winner.

"We did a lot of good things while I was here, but nothing great," he said. "I think something good is going to happen here."

Gibbons, 50, became manager of the Blue Jays in 2004 when then-general manager J.P. Ricciardi fired Carlos Tosca. He was eventually fired in June 2008 and replaced by Cito Gaston, who had led the team to World Series championships in 1992 and 1993.

"It has happened fast," Gibbons said of being hired for a second stint. "I am thrilled to be back. It's always good to see some old friendly faces."

And with the player moves the team made in the last week, he's excited to get a second chance.

"There are too many good baseball people who are running things and putting it together," Gibbons said. "It's going to happen, so why not be there when it does?"

Those people are led by general manager Alex Anthopoulos, who stunned the baseball world last week when word leaked that the Blue Jays and Marlins had agreed to a trade that saw Toronto acquire all-star shortstop Jose Reyes and pitchers Josh Johnson and Mark Buehrle.

He followed that up by signing Cabrera to a two-year deal worth $16 million US.

"The front office has put together a legitimate, contending-type team," said Gibbons, who ranks third all-time in victories with Toronto. "Now it's the manager's job and the coaching staff's job to pull it together as a team and get the most out of these guys. That's our No. 1 job."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"From my standpoint, I don't have any stronger belief that this is the right guy to lead this team."

Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos, on the John Gibbons hiring

Clubhouse controversy

John Gibbons' best year in Toronto came in 2006, when the club went 87-75 to finish second in the AL East — the same season he had well-publicized blowups with players Shea Hillenbrand and Ted Lilly.

- Gibbons said he regrets the physical altercation with Hillenbrand, but Anthopoulos defended him and said if you can't play for Gibbons then you can't play for too many guys.
- "I've always rooted for this organization. They gave me my first shot to be a big-league coach and a big-league manager," Gibbons said.

NHL. Players expected to table proposal on Wednesday

The ball is back in the hands of the NHL Players' Association.

With collective bargaining talks set to resume at the NHL head office on Wednesday morning, the union is expected to table a new proposal. It comes on the heels of a 90-minute meeting on Monday evening, in which the league asked NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr to put together a comprehensive offer that includes how to split revenue and rules governing player contracts.

"We've never heard a full proposal from them," said deputy commissioner Bill Daly. "We've heard their proposal on economics; they're still suggesting that they're moving in our direction on economics. Until we know exactly where they stand on economics ... we think it's all tied together.

"We'd like to hear it all together."

In addition to revenue split and player contract rules, the sides need to work out how to pay for the damage caused by the lockout. In the NHLPA's most recent offer, which was tabled Nov. 7, the union asked for the players' share of revenues to jump in fixed increments of 1.75 per cent each season starting from the $1.88 billion they took in last year.

That proposal didn't include the mechanism that would be used to account for the reduced revenue generated during a shortened 2012-13 season.

The NHL would prefer a proposal based on a percentage of annual revenue.

"If their proposal continues to be a guaranteed player amount, sitting here on Nov. 19, that's not a proposal that would ever be acceptable to us," said Daly. "If that happens to be where we are, we will be a long way apart."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More games under the axe?

The meeting on Wednesday comes at the same time the league is expected to cancel more games.

- According to sources, the NHL has decided to wipe the first two weeks of December off the schedule, which will bring the total lost during the lockout to more than 400 games.

Are we gone 'soft' on car quality?

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Cars from three or four decades ago have very different problems than today's vehicles. HANDOUT

Vehicle quality used to be easy to describe. A window crank falling off in your hand? That was bad quality. A window crank not falling off? That was good quality.

Now most cars have fewer and fewer defects from the factory. So how are we assessing vehicle quality in this modern era?

Well the fine people at J.D. Power and Associates — who have been measuring initial vehicles after 90 days of ownership, every year for the last 26 — have determined that we're getting "soft" when it comes to assessing quality.

By "soft" they mean that we're more concerned about how well things work, rather than whether they work or not, because, well, they almost always do work.

Dave Sargent is the vice-president at J.D. Power and Associates and heads up its Global Automotive practice. Last week, he spoke at the AutoTalk Canada conference in Toronto, and expounded about this evolution of quality perception.

He started his talk by noting that quality remains of paramount importance to consumers and that nothing else drives satisfaction, loyalty and image to the same degree.

He also noted that the customer's perception of what constitutes quality is constantly evolving and will continue to do so. For one thing, we get used to great quality, and move on to things that tick us off.

This has meant quality issues are bleeding into areas we normally thought of as design. Basically, poor design is now seen as poor quality and customers consider these design problems as being just as severe as defects.

And the area most affected by poor design and subsequent "soft" problems is the interface between driver and vehicle. The infotainment and interconnected wonderland is now the new quality battleground.

According to Sargent, for the first time in the 26-year history of the study, owners report more problems related to audio, entertainment and navigation system than in any other vehicle area.

Speaking about the technological wonders coming in this area, Sargent had this to say: "Customers are excited. They are also confused and fearful. They need help."

The nature of the problems here are what's causing the confusion and fear. Take voice command for example, which has become the most-often-reported problem in the industry. If it doesn't work as you had hoped or expected, you have to live with it for the whole time you own the vehicle.

Your dealer could fix your window crank problem in one short visit. But he is often powerless to make your voice command system work to your satisfaction. And when this happens, it happens to every one of the units made, not just the ones where a line worker forgot to tighten the window crank.

Sargent believes dealerships could better support consumers in this area by doing a better job of explaining how these systems work during the delivery process. But he also noted another problem — consumers are becoming increasingly skeptical about the dealership's ability to handle today's complex vehicles.

Oh boy. Can't you just hear the automotive folks pining for the old days, when their major warranty problem was just loose nuts, and maybe a bit of rust.

A clean filter means a healthier car

Driving Force.
Change your vehicle's filters and breathe a little easier

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Clean air is always a must, especially when it comes to cars. Your vehicle contains air filters, which should be changed periodically to maintain your engine's health, as well as your own.

All engines use air filters, which remove dirt and particles before they can enter the combustion chamber. Most new cars also contain cabin filters, usually located in the dash behind the glove box, which clean the air in your heating and cooling system as it circulates.

"If you've left (the filter) for two years or more, it can become clogged," says Michael Minialoff, manager of automotive parts for Canadian Tire. "Not only do you not get effective heat, but your defroster won't work as well as it should, and ventilation will be compromised."

The filter handles fresh air that comes in through exterior vents, as well as that which recirculates from the cabin through the heating and air conditioning ducts.

"It's kind of shocking how much debris can end up in there," Minialoff says. "The air inside your vehicle can be up to six times dirtier than the air outside, with road dust, debris, pet hair, pollen, or anything that could be floating around. These are paper filters and they should be changed about once a year or every 24,000 kilometres."

Your engine also contains an air filter, and it's a very important one. Gasoline must mix with air before it will burn, and for every litre of fuel, your engine will use 10,000 to 12,000 litres of air. All of this air is filtered to prevent dirt from entering and possibly damaging the engine.

Engine filters used to be made primarily of paper and were often checked by holding them up to a light — if the light didn't shine through, the filter was clogged and needed replacement. Today's filters contain several types of materials. "This changes the opacity, so holding it up to a light really doesn't tell you anything," Minialoff says. "It should be changed following the recommended guidelines, either in your owner's manual or on the filter box."

Tips

- **Seats.** Some premium vehicles have air-conditioned seats. These may contain small filters, which should be changed when recommended.
- **Follow manual.** Replacing a cabin air filter isn't difficult and instructions can be found in your owner's manual or on the filter box.
- **Replace if need be.** Change your engine air filter when recommended: A dirty one will affect your fuel economy.

Air filters should be changed more frequently if you regularly drive on dusty roads, in stop-and-go traffic, travel only short distances when your engine doesn't fully warm up, or if you're pulling a trailer or hauling heavy loads.

Quoted

"If you left (the filter) for two years or more, it can become clogged."

Michael Minialoff of Canadian Tire
On the importance of replacing air filters.

A clogged up filter can damage your car and cost you money long-term. HANDOUT

A new air filter will benefit your wallet and your car's performance. HANDOUT

Bank on the Borrego if you are chasing a 4x4 bargain

Second Gear. 2009 to 2011 Kia Borrego

HANDOUT

Kia's questionably-timed attempt to enter the large 4x4 SUV marketplace resulted in the Borrego—a full-sized, fully-featured sport-ute geared to families after affordable access to a premium, off-road ready driving experience. With three seating rows and feature content including heated seats, navigation, a sunroof, automatic climate control and a power tilt steering wheel, Borrego was admirably equipped relative to its price range. Despite earning much praise from a happy owners community, the model was cancelled after just 3 years on sale.

Common Issues

Have the underside inspected for signs of damage caused by possible careless off-roading, and have a Kia mechanic look for leaks from the transfer case, engine, transmission and rear differential. Also, confirm proper operation of the four-wheel drive system, making double sure it switches in and out of its various drive modes as expected and without any warning lights.

Ensure that any V8-powered model you're considering doesn't emit a rattling or ticking sound at idle, and that it doesn't smoke at start up. Inside, ensure the power tailgate and climate controls all work properly. Be sure to play with the navigation system, if so equipped, to make sure it's operating as expected. Some owners report that the unit may freeze up and require replacement.

Engine

Standard power came from a 3.8 litre, 276 horsepower V6, though a 337-horsepower, 4.6 litre V8 was available. All models got a five-speed automatic and four-wheel drive.

What Owners Like

Borrego's strong points include size, cargo carrying capacity, and interior flexibility. Overall performance and some high-end touches within the interior are also highly rated.

What Owners Dislike

Mandatory SUV-related fuel-consumption complaints aside, Borrego owners wished for easier access to the third row of seats, and a smoother ride.

Verdict

A Borrego that checks out mechanically and electronically should prove a more affordable alternative to a Ford Explorer or Honda Pilot. Opt for a model with as much of its warranty remaining as possible for extra peace of mind.

Let the pros ensure your safety this winter

Five top tips. Preparation and patience are key

Consider how many times during the holiday season you will get behind the wheel, with endless trips to pick up gifts, food, supplies and visiting loved ones. But despite the reputation of Canadians as cold weather warriors, winter driving can still be daunting for many of us. Add in unpredictable weather, slick roads and poor visibility and even the most confident drivers hesitate to turn the ignition.

Members of The Circle of Honour program — a dedicated group of active drivers — have maintained a clean driving record for 25 years or more and have logged more than eight billion accident-free kilometres on the road. That's enough kilometres to circle the earth 188,000 times. So here are five winter driving tips to keep you safe this season, courtesy of the Circle of Honour.

Prep for winter in the fall.
Be proactive and get your car serviced before the cold weather hits. Check your oil, washer fluid and brakes. Invest in a pair of tires specifically for winter driving. Make sure your battery is charged, confirm all lights are working, get quality windshield wipers and test the heating/cooling system.

Monitor the weather.
Winter weather can change on a dime, so take a minute to check the report before you hit the road. If there has been a recent snowfall, avoid side streets and shortcuts — those are the last places to see the snowplow. Also be cautious of black ice.

Drive safely with a clear view.
When you're clearing your car of snow, don't overlook the roof, hood and trunk. Snow can fly up and unexpectedly obscure visibility once you're on the road. Mirrors should always be wiped clear and headlights should be clean.

Always be prepared
Create an emergency kit containing non-perishable snacks, bottled water, maps, flashlight, blankets, toilet paper, de-icer, washer fluid and an extra windshield brush. Keep an extra shovel in the trunk as well — you'll be glad if you ever get caught needing it.

It's not a race.
Arriving safely should be your goal. Leave yourself extra time to reach your destination so you don't feel pressured to rush. Speed is one of the biggest causes of motor accidents. If you're a confident, safe driver, always remember that the other drivers may not be. NEWS CANADA

Be prepared and safe for days like this. NEWS CANADA

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Life is good and about to get even better. You can't quite believe that? Well, you will when you begin to see that everything is going your way at last. Keeping a positive attitude is easy when so many positive things are happening.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The atmosphere at work may be less than harmonious today but don't make a big deal of it. Some of your colleagues are going through difficulties at the moment but it isn't your fault, so don't take it to heart.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Why are you still hung up about what a certain person said? Why can't you let it go? Maybe it's because you recognize there was an element of truth in it. So what? You never claimed to be perfect.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you allow too many thoughts to run through your head today, you will be easily confused. That, in turn, will lead to mistakes. Focus on the one thing that matters. More than one and you may mentally exhaust yourself.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
With the Sun beginning its transit of the most dynamic area of your chart, you honestly believe that all things are possible — and they are. Don't let anyone tell you that your dream is unattainable. They're wrong.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The harder you have worked in recent weeks, the more you will need to relax a bit now. Spend time with your family and loved ones and don't think you have to do everything yourself. You've done enough.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do what feels right to you today and don't worry in the slightest if other people disagree with you. They have no right to dictate what you should think, say or do — and you have a right to be yourself.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Make sure you keep a smile on your face over the next 24 hours. You have important matters to deal with and the burden you bear is considerable, but you'll bear it better if you think and look happy.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Everyone knows what you are capable of so you don't have to prove yourself in any way. Having said that, cosmic activity in your birth sign means you want to put on a show. Make it the best show.

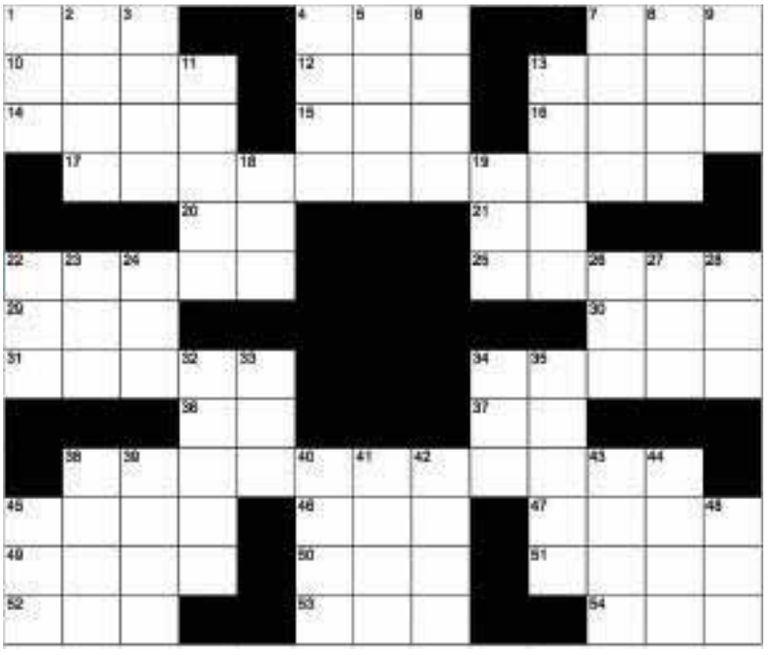
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun's change of signs today will encourage you to think deeply about your life and its meaning. Some people may say it doesn't have meaning and that your existence is hollow. But they are wrong, and you know it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try not to take anything too seriously today. According to the planets, you need to lighten up a little and the best way to do that is in the company of some of your way out friends. They'll make you laugh.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun's change of signs today will make you even more ambitious than usual, and that's good. However, your ambitions need to be tempered by the realization that causes always have consequences. Think before you act. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

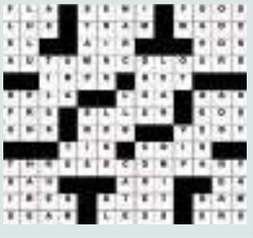
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Auto navigational device (abbr.)
4. Food scrap
7. Term of respect
10. Israeli airlines
12. Foot digit
13. E-mail request
14. Actress —– Flynn Boyle
15. Small amount
16. Operatic solo
17. "You Belong with Me" singer/songwriter (2 words)
20. Shoe width
21. Railway extension
22. Crown
25. Student assignment
29. Airport info.
30. Summer cooler
31. Ogles
34. Breakfast order
36. Model railroad gauge
37. Musical group: – Vogue
38. Praises
45. Alike
46. Poem
47. Spring flower
49. Chocolate cookie
50. Geese formation
51. Work for a living
52. Lair
53. Have dinner
54. Actor of Lethal Weapon movies

Down
1. Hair product
2. A flat area of ground
3. Gilbert of The Talk
4. Beetle Bailey's pooch
5. Lion sound
6. Turner and Knight
7. Slave
8. Name abbr.
9. Star of Stargate: SG-1 (init.)
11. Hen
13. Glides
18. Jamie — Curtis
19. Tiny
22. Sophia's husband on The Golden Girls
23. Prior to
24. Anger
26. Bag-like structure
27. "Much – About Nothing"
28. Japanese currency
32. —– and Juliet
33. Steep
34. Stinging insect
35. Little Orphan —
38. Children's classic: The — Bears
39. Auspice
40. The — Boat
41. Brainstorm
42. Greet
43. British transport
44. Procreate
45. Grass
48. Weekend variety show (init.)

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

1			4		3			
6	9						4	7
	7			2		8		
	5		1	4				8
		7				6		
3				9	8		2	
		5		6			8	
9	4						6	5
			2		1			9

Yesterday's Sudoku

Sharability

easy — hard

FFUN >> Saskatoon Hyundai
PRE-OWNED SUPERSTORE

THE ULTIMATE Christmas TOYS!

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

RATES AS LOW AS 1.9%

Extends your existing coverage with up to 3 YEARS OR 60,000 kms additional HYUNDAI Factory Warranty.

CONSUMER REPORTS 2013

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL AWD
B5564
~~$30,995~~ $25,777
SAVE $5,218

2009 HYUNDAI SANTA FE LTD AWD
N333598
~~$17,995~~ $17,388
SAVE $607

2010 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL AWD
B5595
~~$20,388~~ $19,888
SAVE $607

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL AWD
B5532
~~$30,995~~ $25,777
SAVE $5,218

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GLS AWD
B5578
~~$31,995~~ $29,388
SAVE $2,607

2008 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL AWD
N332491A
~~$19,995~~ $19,388
SAVE $607

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL AWD
B5565
~~$30,995~~ $26,888
SAVE $4,107

2009 HYUNDAI TUCSON LTD AWD
B5586
~~$18,995~~ $18,388
SAVE $607

2010 HYUNDAI VERACRUZ LTD AWD
N32602A
~~$28,995~~ $27,888
SAVE $1,107

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL PREMIUM AWD
N805517A
~~$26,995~~ $25,888
SAVE $3,107

2010 HYUNDAI VERACRUZ LTD AWD
B5577
~~$32,995~~ $31,888
SAVE $1,107

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL AWD
B5565
~~$30,995~~ $26,888
SAVE $4,107

2010 HYUNDAI VERACRUZ GLS AWD
B5579
~~$34,995~~ $33,388
SAVE $1,607

2010 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL SPORT AWD
B5597
~~$26,995~~ $26,388
SAVE $607

2011 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL AWD
B5530
~~$30,995~~ $24,777
SAVE $6,218

2008 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GL FWD
N327174
~~$16,995~~ $15,888
SAVE $1,107

Price / payments exclude all applicable taxes and fees, OAC; EOE

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